

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**Council 25 July 2018 - Questions submitted by Members**

Question No.	Question from:	Question:	Question to:	Service area:
1.	Councillor Roger Truelove	I am addressing this question to you as it should be, first and foremost, a health and well being question, rather than a financial one. My contacts with local residents(which may be different to yours) reveals considerable anger and frustration at the plan to reduce parking concessions at our leisure centres in Sittingbourne and Sheerness. There is widespread concern that elderly people will cease to attend day time activities that help them to engage with others. This seems contrary to all the concern expressed about loneliness in old age. There is concern that many children will no longer take part in physical activities at the centres. This seems contrary to all the concern expressed about childhood obesity. These are a sample of the concerns I heard whilst talking to people at the Leisure Centres, though I did come across one man who thought the concession change was a good idea. I have seen some of your counter arguments, such as people can walk there or go elsewhere but can I ask you now to set out an	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	Martyn Cassell Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact

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		<p>explanation to our local community as to why you and the rest of the cabinet support this mendacious proposal?</p>		
2.	Councillor Roger Truelove	<p>As you know child poverty is essentially calculated as children living in families where the income is less than 60% of median incomes. There are other indices but this basically is a reasonable tool for making comparisons. According to the ONS, Swale has a level of Child Poverty that is below the National average but above average for Kent. What concerns me is the stark contrast between our various wards and communities. Wards like Sheerness, Murston and Priory have levels of child poverty three to four times as great as Iwade and Lower Halstow, West Downs or Woodstock. Priory has twice the level of your own ward of St Anns. The situation is worse when housing costs are put against family income and this is anticipated to get worse with Universal Credit. Do you not agree that it is time to close these gaps? Children must not be denied equal life opportunities because of poverty.</p>	Cabinet Member for Regeneration	Emma Wiggins – Director of Regeneration

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3.	Councillor Mike Baldock	<p>Parking on grass verges is again becoming a serious nuisance in parts of Swale. Although we have a bye-law in place to prevent such anti-social parking, this bye-law seems only to apply to land owned or maintained by Swale Borough Council. Land that is maintained by KCC seems not to be covered by our bye-law. However, despite this having been raised several weeks ago with the KCC Cabinet Member for Transport, the KCC web page still advises members of the public "If a vehicle is causing an obstruction on a grass verge or pavement, you need to report this issue to your district council enforcement team."</p> <p>Given KCC's advice, does our Council have details of who at KCC these concerns should be forwarded to, and how are members of the public supposed to know who owns or maintains the land in question, and to whom they should report the nuisance?</p>	The Leader	Martyn Cassell – Head of Customer and Commissioning Contact
4.	Councillor Tony Winckless	<p>There has been universal disgust at the quality of grass cutting by Kent County Council in the last month. Though it is not Swale Borough Councils responsibility complaints and questions have been directed at Swale Borough Councillors and people expect us to speak on their behalf. Will you press the Cabinet Member for Highways on KCC to offer a</p>	Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs	Martyn Cassell – Head of Customer and Commissioning Contact

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		public apology to the residents of Swale for the dire service provided this summer?		
5.	Councillor Ghlin Whelan	On July 12th one of the members for Teynham and Lynsted convened a public meeting in Newington, promising the public the presence of Kent Police, the KCC, the two ward councillors, Kent Fire and Swale Borough Council. As a senior Swale Borough Council Officer attended, presumably on behalf of us all, can we have a report back on the meeting? As it involved so many important agencies, was it well attended and what were the main outcomes?	The Leader	Martyn Cassell – Head of Customer and Commissioning Contact
6.	Councillor Monique Bonney	What was the cost of the last Local Plan including officers' time and outside consultants, over what time period?	Cabinet Member for Planning	James Freeman/Gill Harris Planning Services
7.	Councillor Monique Bonney	How much is the New Local Plan going to cost, and what are the actual costs to date?	Cabinet Member for Planning	James Freeman/Gill Harris Planning Services